

**March 21, 2013**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

**Detroit Free Press: State Supreme Court throws out \$100,000 verdict for oil mistakenly pumped into home**

"The Michigan Supreme Court has thrown out a \$100,000 verdict for a woman whose home had to be demolished after the basement was mistakenly filled with heating oil. In a 4-0 decision Thursday, the court says Beckie Price of DeWitt can't be awarded money for mental anguish for the destruction of property. The court says there's no precedent for it."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

**The Detroit News: Mich. Supreme Court reverses \$100K verdict for oil in home**

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: Mich. court reverses \$100K verdict for oil in home**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal.**

**Detroit Free Press: Judge erred in work release sentences for 3rd-time drunken drivers**

"An Oakland County circuit judge who was sentencing third-time drunken drivers to work-release programs instead of jail wasn't following the law and will have to re-sentence them, an appellate court ruled. In an opinion released Wednesday, the Michigan Court of Appeals said Judge Phyllis McMillen erred when she sent six drunken drivers to the Oakland County Work Release program rather than 30 days in jail, as required by Michigan law in third offenses."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Life sentenced overturned in Matthew Landry murder**

"A mandatory life sentence was overturned for a teen convicted of terrorizing Macomb County in 2009 in a three-day crime spree that included the slaying of a customer abducted from outside an Eastpointe sandwich shop."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

**The Detroit News: No-parole sentence given to teen in Chesterfield Twp. murder case overturned**

[Full story](#)

**The Oakland Press: Court overturns convicted killer Ihab Maslamani's life-without-parole sentence in Macomb County case**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Wayne County prosecutor Worthy says she may not have staff for felony cases**

"Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said the budget for her office has been slashed to a point she doesn't have enough prosecutors left to staff the Wayne County Circuit Court and may not be able to prosecute some felony cases."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

**The Detroit News: Our Editorial: Worthy must live with prosecutor's office budget**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Wayne County budget battle lines drawn as prosecutors miss court hearings for 3rd straight day**

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: Mich. prosecutor says no-show attorneys no 'ploy'**

[Full story](#)

**Macomb County Legal News: Court caught in middle of county budget battle**

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

**Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: War of words escalates between Worthy, Ficano**

[Full story](#)

**The News-Herald/Southgate: POLI-TICKER: Prosecutor says she was forced to make cuts**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Report: State foster care overhaul making progress, more work to be done**

"[U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Edmunds] congratulated the state Wednesday for making strides toward meeting a court mandate to overhaul its troubled foster care system, but a report from a court-appointed monitor said more needs to be done to ensure children's safety."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Detroit Free Press: Progress made for Michigan foster kids, but still too much abuse, child advocacy group says at hearing**

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: Report: Michigan child welfare system improving, but 'still needs a lot of work'**

[Full story](#)

**Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Are kids in the state's care safe? Court monitor says not safe enough**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Veterans say state's money-saving move has cost them in quality of care**

"... In 2011, testimony from veterans about poor care and serious injuries caused by J2S workers prompted then Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield to issue an injunction against the privatization move, saying it would cause 'irreparable harm' to the more than 600 vets who live there. But in 2012, the Michigan Court of Appeals overturned that ruling and threw out the case."

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: Michigan House votes to keep 0.08 pct. alcohol law**

"The Michigan House has passed legislation that would prevent a scheduled rise in the state's blood-alcohol limit for drivers. The bills approved unanimously Wednesday would keep the legal limit for drivers' blood-alcohol content at 0.08 percent.... The bills now head to the Senate."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **MLive.com: Drunken driving: Michigan House votes to keep threshold at .08 percent BAC**

[Full story](#)

## **Cadillac News: Local taxpayers, not state, may be obligated to fill court vacancy**

"It was around this time last year when state lawmakers stepped in to prevent a state recommendation to cut a district court judge position in our area. The news was a relief for officials in Wexford and Missaukee counties, who continue to struggle to balance the budget with declining revenues. Their relief has been short-lived."

[Full story](#)

**\*\* The article is available by subscription only.**

## **C & G Newspapers/Warren: Judge formally requests court's change of venue**

"Before the Board of Trustees have even voted on its portion of the 41-A District Court interlocal agreement, [Chief Judge Michael Maceroni] made a formal request for Macomb to build a new courthouse."

[Full story](#)

## **Detroit Legal News: Asked and Answered: Matthew Schneider on Live Streaming of MSC Oral Arguments**

"The Michigan Supreme Court has begun live streaming of oral arguments via the Internet. Live streaming the court's hearings 'is a natural extension of this court's commitment to transparency,' said Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Detroit Legal News: State Supreme Court enters electronic age**

[Full story](#)

## **Flint Journal: Former Flint attorney and Flint City Golf co-founder Thomas A. Warda, 47, remembered for generosity, spontaneous character**

"... Genesee Circuit Judge John A. Gadola had known [Thomas] Warda since high school, and said he had witnessed Warda's effort as a mediator in court cases. Gadola said it was interesting to see his career evolve from criminal defense to one working in family court, helping families to resolve matters."

[Full story](#)

## **Ingham County Legal News: Justice McCormack sees need for election reforms**

"Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack of Ann Arbor says she has enjoyed her first two months on the bench and reports that her new colleagues have all been warm and helpful. But she admits to being humbled recently."

[Full story](#)

## **Jackson County Legal News: Paperless courts - Michigan bill will establish SCAO policies, practices**

"A measure to remove one of the last roadblocks to true paperless court records and filing, House Bill 4064, has passed the House and should be through the Senate and signed by Gov. Rick Snyder by summer."

[Full story](#)

### **Lansing State Journal: Charlotte doctor sex crime case records won't be sealed**

"An Eaton County judge on Tuesday said court records in the case of a onetime Charlotte doctor charged with sexual crimes involving female patients will not be sealed."

[Full story](#)

**\*\* The article is available by subscription only.**

### **MLive.com: Ex-Meijer attorney is accused of professional misconduct in Acme Township case**

"A former attorney for Meijer is accused of professional misconduct, six years after he allegedly lied about his role in a recall effort of Acme Township leaders who opposed a Meijer store in their Northern Michigan community. Timothy A. Stoepker has a hearing scheduled next month before the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission."

[Full story](#)

### **Motion Magazine: Snap Shot**

"It's a photo for the ages, the kind that will forever cement a 'black' and 'white' bond in our national pastime. The photo is a point of pride for Carl Gromek, who for nearly a decade served in the dual role of Chief of Staff for the Michigan Supreme Court and State Court Administrator for the more than 240 trial courts in Michigan."

[Full story](#)

### **The News-Herald/Southgate: EDITORIAL: Double dose of good news from Wayne County**

"Wayne County residents were winners after two announcements last week from Detroit. Clerk Cathy Garrett said the county is very close to implementing an e-filing system for all civil cases before Wayne County Circuit Court."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Discussion centers on 50th anniversary of Gideon v. Wainwright**

"Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Edward Ewell will moderate a panel at Wayne State University Law School exploring the modern-day application of a criminal defendant's right to counsel. The discussion will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 25, in Partrich Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Macomb County Legal News: Serious problems persist in indigent legal defense**

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: 'Bench-Bar Collaboration'**

"The Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA) hosted a Circuit-Probate Court Bench/Bar conference titled 'Bench-Bar Collaboration: A Two-Way Street' on Friday, March 8, at the Orchard Lake Country Club."

[Full story](#)

### **The Times-Herald/Port Huron: Cynthia S. Platzer: Yale High School mock trial team will battle Saturday in state finals**

"The eighth annual St. Clair County Bar Association Mock Trial Tournament was conducted, as always, the last Saturday of February. Thirteen teams from nine St. Clair County high schools competed."

[\*Full story\*](#)

**\*\* The article is available by subscription only.**